

II. Remarks

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-16, 18-21, 24, 26-34, 36-39, 42, 44-52 and 54-60 were pending in the application prior to this amendment. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 8-16, 18, 19, 56, 57 and 59 have been allowed, claims 20, 21, 24, 26-34, 36-38, 42, 44-52, 54, 55 and 60 have been rejected, and claims 1 and 58 have been objected to. Claims 3-5, 7, 17, 20-55, and 60 have been cancelled; as such, claims 1, 2, 6, 8-16, 18, 19, and 56-59 are now pending. Claims 1 and 58 have been amended. Support for this amendment may be found in Applicant's specification as originally filed. In view of the remarks provided herewith, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and objections.

Claim Objections Based on Informalities

Claims 1 is objected to because of certain informalities, appearing to be a grammatical error. Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner, therefore rendering this objection moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20, 21, 24, 26-34, 36-38, 42, 44-52, and 54, 55 and 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,108,418 to Lefebvre (Lefebvre), in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,147,649 to Thomas (Thomas). Applicant has cancelled these claims, rendering this rejection moot. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 8-16, 18, 19, 56, 57 and 59 have been allowed. Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination and allowance of these claims.

The Examiner has objected to claim 58 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 58 such that it incorporates all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 20) and intervening claim (claim 21) from which it depended. Therefore, claim 58 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Summary

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot, and that pending claims 1, 2, 6, 8-16, 18, 19, and 56-59 as amended, are patentable. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (734) 302-6022.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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